

Wee George Tames 'Mr. Avenue'!

By 'Nova'

Walthamstow 0, Wycombe 0

"STICK close to Jim Lewis", was the advice given to Wycombe Wanderers' tenacious wing-half George Maharg by tacticians before Saturday's Isthmian League game at Walthamstow. Many other defenders have been given similar advice against the former England amateur international forward—but few can have carried it out so well....

From the kick-off Maharg stuck like a terrier to Lewis and never left him until the final whistle. And wee George, the pint-size player with a large heart and tremendous courage and energy, did what few others have managed—to tame "Mr. Avenue" himself.

Lewis, scorer of three hat-tricks already this season, roamed to the wings, upfield and downfield, but could never escape the shadow-like attention of Maharg. And without his promptings and bustle, the other Avenue forwards looked like lost sheep.

Wycombe, on the other hand, did not miss quite so much lack of actual constructive service from Maharg, and the burly Balson and alert Peter Lowen both nearly scored to give Wycombe both points.

KEY MEN OUT

Without Len Worley and the defensive king-pin Peter Roystone, both of whom were ill, Wycombe were well satisfied to gain another league point and stretch their unbeaten run to a month.

Early on it looked odds on a home win. Luckily, however, Dennis Syrett, in track suit trousers as protection against the bone hard pitch, was in great form straightaway, saving two goalworthy shots in the first minute.

With Alistair Lewis, a little uncertain and not as dominating as Roystone, the Wycombe goalkeeper looked in for a gruelling afternoon. But gradually the excellent rhythm attained in recent weeks started

to show through both defence and attack.

The ball flowed quickly, efficiently and excitingly from backs to half-backs and forwards. Balson, always a danger in front of goal, broke away with a good pass from Lowen but Brommett pushed out his shot. Then the centre-forward wasted a good chance, shooting high and wide.

Already the pattern was set, with Wycombe moving forward in sweet flowing movements and the Avenue trying to hit the long ball into the penalty area. But it was Wycombe's style which looked like paying dividends.

BECK EXCELS

After the interval Walthamstow threatened to take a firm grip on the game and Treadwell, who was given a lot of room by Charlie Gale, put in several power shots.

But England winger Brian Harvey was played out of the game by one of the best performances given by Beck in years, and George Pullin stopped up any gaps—and there were only a few—left by Alistair Lewis.

In the forward line Wycombe might have gained better results if Hodges had been brought into the game a little more, although Samuels, on the other wing, impressed with neat ball control and precision passes.

With Horseman having a quiet afternoon, Lowen and Balson seemed most likely to score, but the centre-forward missed the best chance of the afternoon when, with only Brommett to beat, he lifted his shot over the bar.

Wycombe did get the ball into the net when Lowen smacked a goal-kick straight back, but the referee disallowed it on the grounds that he had not blown for the kick to be taken.

Walthamstow—J. Brommett; H. Gray, A. King; D. Andrews, B. Walsh, H. Moxon; A. Orziel, J. Lewis, R. Battram, A. Treadwell, B. Harvey.

Wycombe—D. Syrett; J. Beck, G. Pullin; G. Maharg, A. Lewis, C. Gale; K. Samuels, T. Horseman, P. Lowen, J. Balson, P. Hodges.